

The GARZETTE

March, 2001

Volume 11, Issue 3



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From the Oval Office

By Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, GARS President

March, 2001

Have you seen the new ad the Army's been running for the past couple of months? It's the one that says, "I am an army of one." While I understand the marketing ploy behind it, I find the concept a bit frightening. The best and bravest soldier in the world can't win the war single-handedly. If the eager fella forges fearlessly ahead yelling, "Follow me-e-e!!" only to find that the rest of the troops have decided to stop at the PX, he's in a world of hurt. Me? I'm a great believer in strength in numbers.

That's where you guys come in. Hey, I don't claim to be a soldier, brave or otherwise, and



I'm not calling all of you fine GARS members the "troops", but the parallels are inescapable. As your new somewhat "fearful leader", I'm counting on each of you to make this next year a productive and enjoyable one. I truly want your input, and I'm interested in your ideas for club programs, projects, or events. Even if you're unable to participate in

club meetings or activities, I'll bet you have something of value to share with the rest of us about your amateur radio experiences... how about an article for the Garzette? Feel free to call me or email me, and as always, our executive meetings are open to anyone who wants to come. Those meetings will be held the 2nd Monday of each month at the No. 1 Chinese Super Buffet, on Highway 120 in Lawrenceville at 7 PM. We'll come earlier, around 6, to eat, and then start meetings promptly at 7. If you have something in particular that you'd like to have addressed at one of these meetings, please let me know, so we can be sure to put you on the agenda.

(Continued on page 9)



Where's Marty Fowler? My Master asked me to pass on a message...

See Dog Show Article, page

THE GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or by email to N1TOQ@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

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Deadline for submissions is the Week of the Monthly Meeting for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:

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All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048
Attn: Newsletter Editor



TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT

By President Susan Swiderski, AF4FO

Yogi Berra said, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it." Well, we at GARS have come to a fork and must come to a decision as to which direction we're going to go. The topic? Dog shows.

A group of hard-working folks, led by Ike, K4WEC, and Marty, KE4MLH, have worked this event for 2 or 3 times a year for the past 4 years, and their efforts have put in the neighborhood of \$25,000 into the club coffers, which has enabled us to fund such things as our repeater systems, Field Day, club picnics, Tech Fest, Holiday parties, and donations to ARES and to Venture Crew 73. To earn this hefty donation made to the club by the sponsors of the dog shows, volunteers have worked any or all portions of a 3-day weekend from 6 AM until 2 PM doing such things as directing and organizing the parking of a multitude of vehicles and manning the ticket booth. Each person that I

have spoken to who has worked these dog shows has told me that it's tiring work at times, but that it has always provided a lot of fun, as well.

That all sounds good, right? The problem lies in recruiting people. This last show in February yielded the fewest number of volunteers ever, although

Ike said that the group who was working handled the job admirably, and things went surprisingly smoothly. But the thing is, Ike and Marty are both tired of begging for volunteers, and stressing out over whether they'll be able to handle the job with the number of people who actually show up.

You see, a few years ago, the question was put to the club at one of the meetings as to whether or not the club should continue doing the dog shows, and a huge majority of the members present voted in support of keeping the money flowing. However, to me, that was the wrong question to ask. It reminds me of the old children's story about the little red hen who found some wheat seeds. Every step of the way, she asked her friends who would help her plant the seeds, tend the garden, harvest and grind the wheat, and bake the bread, and each step of the way, her friends all responded, "Not I! Not I! Not I!" It wasn't until she asked who would help her eat the bread that they all answered "'I will! I will! I will!'" Well, we all like to eat the bread, or to have the "bread" in the bank, but the more important question is "Who is willing to do the work to earn the bread?"

I've been told that in the history of GARS, there have been disagreements that have threatened to split the club, but this is the first one I've observed first-hand. The people who have consistently worked the dog shows adamantly say they have a terrific time and some even look forward to the opportunity to work the next one. All of them deserve our gratitude and appreciation. But there are also those who have never worked one, and probably never will. One person told me, "Just because it's legal doesn't make it RIGHT." Others have heavy work schedules and other higher-priority obligations. Personally, I believe that those people who choose not to work the dog shows, for whatever reason, have the right to make that decision, and their decision deserves our respect. Unfortunately, that hasn't always been the case, and we've lost some good club members because of it, which truly saddens me.

Okay, now, it's all laid out for you. The question remains as to whether this club will continue to commit itself to working these dog shows to earn donations to feed the club coffers. I must admit, after doing some investigation, it's doubtful that we can find another cash cow to equal this one. But, there must be enough people willing to make the commitment.

The next dog show is scheduled for August 24 through 26. Are you willing to commit?

(continued on page 10)

Bagel Safety**Tips for Happy Bagel Eating**

1. Use a sharp, serrated knife (12-inch, if possible). A dull knife will do more damage than a sharp one. With a dull knife, you exert more pressure to cut so that if you slip, you can stab yourself deeper or cause a jagged laceration.
2. If you slice a bagel while it is on its side, keep your palm down and your fingers out straight. Don't hold the bagel and push the point of the knife toward your palm.
3. It is recommended that you slice the bagel half-way through while it is laying horizontal. Then turn it sideways and slice it the rest of the way through.
4. Don't try to slice a frozen bagel. Let it thaw first.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

submitted by Sharon Carter, KG4HKO, GARS Secretary

February Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2001

Susan opened the meeting at approximately 7:35 PM. Present were officers Sid, Dan, and Sharon; past officers David, Randy and Marty; club members Mike, Bill and Robert.

The group agreed to schedule future exec committee meetings at the One China Buffet for 7:00 PM, gathering at 6:00 to eat. Persons with items for the meeting agenda should inform Susan before the meeting.

Susan expressed a concern that the purpose of the meetings be a focus on amateur radio, and that club business be kept at a minimum. She also suggested the compilation of a list of persons willing to become Elmers to other operators. Among those who have already indicated a willingness to assist others were David Moon, KF4KSE, whose area of interest in installation of radios in automobiles, and Ron WE5O, who is willing to work with other hams in a general sense.

Additionally, there has been a suggestion by Victor Gann that we consider forming SIG's (Special Interest Groups) for those members who wish to focus on specific aspects of the radio art. Possible groups would be for slow scan, fox hunting, QRP, etc. Dan indicated that this was a similar idea to the current ARES group. SIG's would not become a replacement for the club, but would provide additional fellowship and learning at times other than club meeting nights.

It was suggested that we attempt to increase the number of amateur radio demonstrations provided for the community (similar to that in conjunction with the release of the movie "Frequency"). Mary Ahls has some connections that might assist us in scheduling some future events. David also reminded us that we now have four stand alone canopies as well as a 4' x 8' trailer that are available for the club's use. The program begun at R.D. Head by Jan Stevens was also discussed, and participation/demonstrations/activity with other schools and young people were brought up as possibilities.

The president would like to use the Garzette as a way to disperse information about events, as this is the only method through which all members of the club are contacted regularly. Information should be more than just a list, but provide important details, comments from past participants, etc.

Alternative ways of fund-raising were discussed. One was that we conduct a Ham Auction, with proceeds from items donated shared with the clubs who make the donations. GARS would make most of its profit through entry fees, both for those donating items and those coming to buy. Marty has a contact for a possible facility and auctioneer. Other sites discussed would be inside a tin building at the fairgrounds or the EAA building at Briscoe Airport (contact: Joel, W4HNL).

Another idea (perhaps in conjunction with an auction or swap fest) would be to enlarge the Tech-Fest. This would require locating another facility, especially if we wished to charge an entrance fee – and idea that most agree with. *(continued on page 5).*

Hot Frequencies

By Barry Zoll, N1TOQ

Popular Marine Frequencies

For those of you who are land lubbers, there are many frequencies that allow you to listen to marine traffic. Marine VHF radios operate in the 156-157 mhz range and are limited to 25 watts of output. Most marine HT's are a maximum of 5 watts while a mobile or base unit can run as much as 25 watts. Because of this QRP situation, you may not be able to hear any activity unless you are close to the water or in a high spot. My home is near the Mall of Georgia and during the summer, I hear activity when I use my base station antenna. In the Atlanta area, I suggest that you tune into the following frequencies:

<u>Marine Channel</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Primary Usage</u>
9	156.45	Emergency
12	156.60	Commercial / Port Operations
13	156.65	Bridge Tenders
14	156.70	Miscellaneous
16	156.80	Emergency
22A	157.10	Marine Safety (USCG)
68	156.425	General
69	156.475	General
71	156.575	General
72	156.625	General

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

(Continued from Page 4)

A SwapFest was also proposed, with a \$3 - \$5 entrance fee and a small fee for participating vendors.

The current state of the 440 repeater link systems was discussed, and it is agreed that this problem merits immediate attention. As Eddie was unable to be in attendance, the problem will be referred to him for further action.

Also in process is the inventory of club property by Rick, KD4RFK. As yet there is not a final listing of all club property. This effort will be continued.

Sid suggested the formation of a scholarship program (which was agreed upon by Susan, Randy, Howie – not present, but previously consulted, Sharon, and others). Funds from the program would be awarded to students wishing to study electronics, etc. This will be taken under advisement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers

Old Hickory House
5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody
Dutch dinner is at 6:30 PM, followed by meeting.
Talk In 145.410(-)

Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

American Red Cross Building, Lindberg Plaza
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Jefferson Civic Center
Off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from
Jefferson
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Shoney's Restaurant
Holcomb Bridge Road at grimes Bridge Road
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Killian Hall, Killian Hill Road
Lilburn
Dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

East Atlanta LAN

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Dunwoody
Meeting is at 10:00 AM
Talk In - 145.410(-) and 443.025(+)

Third THURSDAY



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church
Gwinnett Drive
Lawrenceville
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall.
Talk In -147.075(+) and 444.525(+)



Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

First Sunday

WCARS VEC
2:00 PM
(Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Saturday

9:00AM
Clayton County Emergency
Management Building
7496 N. McDonough St., Jonesboro
George White, KN4NG (770)361-6850

Second Tuesday

7:00PM
Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA
(770)498-7759

Second Saturday, Odd Months

CA VEC
8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Verone, W4ETN
(770)978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9:00AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave
Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ
(770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770)942-6466.

Fourth Friday

W5YI VEC
7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
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82.5 PL

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2 Meter Repeater
147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville
Backup Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville
Remote Receive Sites
Bogan Road, Buford
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

70 Cm Repeater
444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL
Main Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville
Remote Receive Sites
Under construction
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Goshen Springs Road, Norcross

APRS
144.390 -- 1200 Baud
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• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
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• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
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FT-1000MP 100 W Transceiver
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• Dual TX
• 100W Power Output
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VX-1R
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
Call Now For Low Price!

FT-920 100 W Transceiver
• 100W 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
Call For Low Pricing!

FT-100 100 W Transceiver
• Compact Transceiver with detachable front panel
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
Call Now For Low Pricing!

FT-50RD
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
• 100 W • 100 W • 100 W
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FT-8100R 100 W Transceiver
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Giving Amateur Radio Spirit!



Upcoming Events

Committee Chairs:

Let's fill this feature with dates and events to keep GARS members looking ahead!



March 2001

Executive committee
22nd GARS Club Meeting

April 2001

Executive committee
19th GARS Club Meeting

May 2001

Executive committee
17th GARS Club Meeting

June 2001

Executive committee
21st GARS Club Meeting
29th-30th FIELD DAY

July 2001

Executive committee
19th GARS Club Meeting

August 2001

Executive committee
16th GARS Club Meeting

September 2001

Executive committee
20th GARS Club Meeting

October 2001

Executive committee
18th GARS Club Meeting

Meeting Time
&
Location

3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Central Baptist Church,
Gwinnett Drive,
Lawrenceville

Talk in 147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

From the Oval Office *(continued from Page 1)*

At our first exec meeting, actually a "turnover" type meeting with both old and new officers in attendance, some terrific ideas were discussed, ideas which we hope will put more radio activities into this upcoming year. We'll fill you all in as soon as we've followed through on gathering information, but I think you'll be pleased. We also have some exciting plans for club programs, so stay tuned to make sure you don't miss out on any of the fun.

One thing we've talked about a couple of times in the past that I'd like to see us follow through on is establishing an organized list of Elmers. This would be a group of folks who'd be willing to serve as a valuable resource to the rest of us. A couple of folks have already told me that they'd like to be included in this list. One is David, KF4KSE, who's a whiz kid in installing mobile rigs, and the other is Ron, WE5O, who's pretty doggone knowledgeable all the way around. Please get in touch with me if you're willing to be included in this list, and we'll start "advertising" these fine folks and their particular area of expertise in future Garzettes. (Especially since we sponsor the classes that Win, N1TWX, teaches, and then give a year's club membership to those who get their license, wouldn't it be great if we were able to better guide them once they get that license?) So, please, please, put your experience to good use as an Elmer. Operators are standing by waiting for your calls...(Actually, it's just me...our dog, who can't hear...and our cat, who can't be bothered...) But, please consider doing this. Also, if you're knowledgeable in handling RFI problems, that club chairmanship has been open for several years.....interested?

We are very fortunate at GARS to have had a history of fine people who've worked hard to put out an excellent newsletter for us every month. Not only is it an excellent newsletter, but even with our egroups list, our club meetings, our nets, and even the telephone, the Garzette has the rather important distinction of being the only reliable means of communication that allows us to get news out to every single member. That's every single member. To me, that's extremely important. I'd like to see us better utilize this valuable asset to get information on upcoming events out to all of the club members, because I truly feel that an informed membership is a more involved membership. And better yet, how about if people who've actually participated in these events send a few words of comment to the Garzette?

If even one club member who is unable to make it to club meetings or check into club nets reads about an upcoming event that appeals to him and is able to participate, that is a huge plus. There's a large number of members out there who have so many work and family obligations and other activities that GARS may not even register a blip on their priority list. But like Bill Husted says, "In the amateur radio fraternity, there are no strangers." Just because you can't make it to meetings as often as you might like, you're still family, and we'd love to see you whenever you can come.

Our March club meeting will be about Field Day, which is only a few months away, and there's a lot of planning still to be done. I ask that you offer your help and support to Bob, W4ETN, this year's chairman. Don't forget our club nets.... Tuesdays at 8 PM for the 2M net, and Wednesdays at 9 PM for the 6M net. Also, ARES net on Mondays, 9 PM, on 2M.

I'm really looking forward to serving this club as one of its leaders for this next year. The other officers, Sid, K4SID (VP), Dan, KF4YSU (Treas), Sharon, KG4HKO (Sec), and Bill, AB0KF (Activities), are a fantastic group of folks, and I think we're going to have a lot of fun together. We sure would appreciate your support.

Until next month, this is AF4FO, signing clear. 73

TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT

Continued from page 2

If there are enough volunteers, fine. But, if there aren't, I'm afraid the cash cow will move on to other, greener pastures. As a club, we must make a decision at the May meeting. Your comments are welcome. If you can work the dog show in August, please let me know.

This is your club. Your fork. Your decision.

Pixie Party

By Victor Gann, W4VEG

On January 13, 2001, Venture Crew 73 of the Boy Scouts of America hosted a radio-building event. Youth from ages 9 to 20 were invited to build a radio with less than 30 parts capable of sending and receiving Morse Code over hundreds of miles powered only by a 9 volt battery. The kit is called the "Pixie2" and is marketed by HSC Electronics www.halted.com. The kit and the assembly cost less than \$12, and is an excellent way to introduce electronics and radio theory to youth. Kit builders were paired with an adult mentor to guide in construction and answer individual questions. Over 50 participants took part in building 20 radios housed in Al-toids Mints boxes.

Builders were guided through the kit with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, schematics, parts layout diagrams, and individual assistance. Kit builders assembled from 9 AM until 3 PM at which time each kit was tested in a complete electronics testing lab set up by GARS members onsite. Builders learned the basics of radio communication, how to read a schematic, identify parts, solder parts and basic electronics assembly techniques. The event concluded with gifts from Kenwood and awards for the radio with the highest power output, a measurement partially controlled by assembly technique.

Mike Swiderski, volunteer with the American Radio Relay League, commented he had never heard of an event like this to introduce so many youth to Amateur Radio. The event was deemed a huge success, and now parents all over Gwinnett county are wondering why their son or daughter is suddenly talking in "dahs and dits" to a candy tin.

The event was sponsored by Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society www.gars.org

, QRP ARCI www.qrparci.org

, the international low power experts organization, NOGA QRP the North Georgia low power communication club www.qsl.net/nogaqrp

, Kenwood USA Amateur Radio, Trooper Batteries www.trooperbatteries.com

and Venture Crew 73 www.geocities.com/wb2ogy/crew_73.htm

- Additional information may be obtained from Victor Gann at victorg@mindspring.com.

Team Swiderski "at the helm"

Field Day 2001

is around the corner!



February CLUB MEETING NOTES

submitted by Sharon Carter, KG4HKO, GARS Secretary

February 15, 2001

Officers in attendance: President David Adcock, KA4KKF; Vice President Marty Fowler, KE4MLH; Treasurer, Randy Dreshcer, K4HS; Activities Manager, Darren Pierce AG4BF.

President Adcock opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M. Visitors were recognized and welcomed, followed my introduction of members.

The treasurer's report was given by Randy, K4HS, and the budget approved by the membership.

Two new members were presented by Dwight Evans, KG4FJF, Membership Chair. The new members are: Scott Norman, KG4LEH, single membership; and Jerry Bowden, KG4KUJ, who requested a family membership to include son Parker.

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO circulated a get-well card for Bob Varone, W4ETN, who was injured in a pedestrian/automobile accident.

Marty, KE4MLH, questioned Repeater Chair Eddie Foust, WD4JEM, concerning "Fatal Error" messages from the repeater. Eddie reported that the repeater is being worked on to correct the problem.

An announcement from Crew 73's spokesman, Nick notified one and all that the crew is now selling batteries as a fund raiser for the group. For information, contact any crew member, or sponsors Carol, KG4ETR, and Victor, W4VEG.

Additional events discussed were the CPR Saturday event with the Red Cross (contact Wayne Chapman, KG5WU), the Kidney Foundation walk (contact Bill (AB0KF) or Mary (W4NZJ) Ahls), Boy Scouts of America Goldrush Days (contact Earl Whatley, AF4FG), and Girl Scouts on the air (contact Andrea Hartlege, KG4IUM).

The main event of the meeting was the election of new officers. Elected by acclamation were: President, Susan Swiderski, AF4FO; Vice President, Sid Williams, K4SID; Treasurer, Dan Keohan, KF4 YSU; and Secretary, Sharon Carter, KG4HKO.

The meeting was then turned over to the new officers. Susan reminded all present that this is OUR club (yours and mine), and that ALL of us are welcome to express their views and ideas to her or the other officers. There followed a short discussion about the Dog Shows, and some of the differing opinions held by various members of the organization. Several alternative fund-raisers were suggested, such as a raffle or auction, charging for TechFest, etc. The matter was left open, with no decisions either in favor or against made at this time.

The meeting closed with the awarding of radios to two of the operators who assisted with the Dog Show – one to Ike Chapman, K4WEC, and the other to Buddy Menshaw, KE4YZS.

The winner of the \$25 gift certificate for HRO was Carol Gann, KG4ETR.

President Swiderski adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:50 P.M.

Next Month in the Garzette...

- GARS Ham Radio Demonstration for Children - GARS members give live demo to students in Lilburn
- Latest Venture Crew Activities
- Hot Frequencies for you Scanner Buffs
- The latest information regarding Field Day
- And much, much, more!!!!

April Meeting Speaker will be Bob Allphin, K4UEE. He will present an exciting program on the Dxpediton to Kingman Reef

